ESCAPE TO NEW YORK

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STORY & ART BY
ROZ GIBSON

EIGHT MONTHS AFTER HIS ARREST, CONVICTED SERIAL KILLER JACK SALEM IS SENTENCED TO LIFETIME INTERNMENT IN THE CITY OF ICE

THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE TURN

2095

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THE MAIN POINT OF DEPARTURE WAS IN THE EASTERN CONFEDERATION, BY NEW YORK CITY, AND THAT IS WHERE JACK IS TAKEN FOR FINAL PROCESSING

PROCing 534

THERE WERE MANY OTHERS THERE, MOSTLY PRISONERS LIKE HIMSELF

BUT THERE WERE ALSO A GOOD NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS,--POLITICOS-- FROM SOUTH OF THE CONFEDERATION AND OVERSEAS

THE CREATORS FROWNED ON EXCESSIVE POLITICAL KILLING, SO MOST GOVERNMENTS PREFERED TO SEND UNWANTED MINORITY SPECIES AND POLITICAL DISSIDENTS TO THE CITY OF ICE INSTEAD

THERE WERE CHURCHES IN THE COMPLEX, WHERE PEOPLE WOULD BEG THE CREATORS FOR HELP

JACK HAD NO IDEA IF THE PRAYERS WERE EVER ANSWERED, BUT DOUPTED THAT ROUTE WOULD WORK FOR HIM

POLITICO OR CRIMINAL, THE REPUBLIC HUMANS DIDN'T CARE

AS LONG AS THE FEE WAS PAID THEY'D TAKE ANYONE ON THE ONE-WAY TRIP TO THE CITY

TWO BEFORE LUNCH

EVERYONE GO THE SAME TREATMENT

THE MANDATORY STERILIZATION OPERATION

EUTHANASIA WAS AN OPTION, IF YOU WISHED

BUT NOT FOR SALEM

ATHORIZED SONEL ONLY.

THEN INTERMINABLE WAITING IN HOLDING CELLS UNTIL THE NEXT QUARTERLY SHIP DEPARTURE

DEPARTURE

I WANNA SEE A LAWYER!

YOU FIPE DOWN OUTTADDY!

TIME TO BROOD

AND FINALLY GOODBYE TO EARTH, FOREVER

THE TRIP TAKES AROUND A FORTNIGHT

25 26

THE VIOLENT CRIMINALS ARE KEPT APART FROM THE POLITICOS, BUT EVERYONE WAS SO DEMORALIZED THERE WAS USUALLY NO TROUBLE

USUALLY...

THEIR FINAL DESTINATION: THE CITY OF ICE ON THE PLANET MAXWELL

THE LANDING AND DEPROCESSING AREA WAS LOCATED MILES AWAY FROM THE CITY

IMPOSSIBLE FOR AN INMATE TO REACH OVER LAND

FROM THERE IT WAS INTO THE CITY ITSELF

MAIN ENTER

FOOD COUPONS WERE GIVEN MONTHLY, THE AMOUNT AN INMATE GOT BASED ON SIZE AND METABOLIC REQUIREMENTS

IN THE CITY THE COUPONS WERE MORE VALUABLE THAN GOLD, OR A LIFE

LONG-TIME INMATES OF THE CITY WAITED BY THE ENTRANCE, PREYING ON THE MOST HELPLESS OF THE NEW ARRIVALS

THE HUMANS LEFT THE NEW INMATES TO THEIR FATE

THEY WOULD HAVE NO FURTHER CONTACT WITH THEM EXCEPT AT THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION STATIONS

THE CITY OF ICE WAS APTLY NAMED. THERE WERE NO SEASONS TO SPEAK OF-- JUST VERY COLD AND EXTREMELY COLD

THERE WAS NOWHERE TO ESCAPE TO, THE ENTIRE PLANET MORE FROZEN AND BARREN THAN EARTH'S ANTARCTICA

THOSE UNABLE TO TOLERATE THE COLD-- INSECTS, REPTILES AND OTHERS, OCCUPIED THE UNDERGROUND

THE MORE EXPOSED UPPER LEVELS WERE CONTROLLED BY THE MAMMALS AND BIRDS

EARLY IN THE MONTH ONLY THE MOST DEFENSELESS GOT ROBBED OF THEIR FOOD COUPONS

NO ONE TRIED TO TAKE ON JACK-- IN THE BEGINING...

BUT AS THE MONTH WORE ON PEOPLE BECAME HUNGRY ENOUGH TO TRY TACKLING MORE FORMIDABLE QUARRY THAN SOFT POLITICOS....

YOU WANT MY COUPONS?!

COME'N GET'M!!

THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM--

BUT THEY SURE AS HELL WON'T TAKE ME WITHOUT A FIGHT!

HUFF-

WHAT? A REPTILE? UP HERE--?

YAKKA YAKKA!!

!!

VROOSH

SHIT!!

HOU HOUU

CREATORS!

I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE FAST!

CAN'T TAKE A DIRECT HIT--

BURN'M CHARLIE!

AH!!

EEEKK

AS THE ATTACKING GANG FLEES IN TERROR, JACK TURNS TO FACE THIS NEW MENACE

PUT AWAY YOUR STICK, LITTLE MAMMAL-- I MEAN YOU NO HARM

GRRR

NOW IS THIS ANY WAY FOR ONE NEW YORKER TO TREAT ANOTHER?

NEW YORKER?

YOU'RE FROM NEW YORK?

I KNOW YOU-- YOU'RE JACK SALEM, THE .357 KILLER

I'M IMPRESSED WITH YOUR PERFORMANCE-- MOST NEWCOMERS DON'T LAST THIS LONG

HOW DO YOU KNOW ME?

WE GET EARTH NEWS, SOMETIMES

THERE'S SOMEONE HERE WHO GETS A SATELLITE FEED, SO I FOUND OUT YOU'D BEEN SENTENCED TO THE CITY

NOW COME WITH ME

WHY SHOULD I?

BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T I'LL RIP YOUR GUTS OUT!!

SNARRRLL

JUST TRY IT!!

HUMM, I DO LOVE SPIRIT

AS SOON AS I FOUND OUT YOU WERE COMING HERE, I WAITED BY THE ENTERANCE UNTIL'I SAW YOU

I'VE BEEN KEEPING TRACK OF YOU ALL THIS TIME

WHY?

I DON'T NEED ANY HELP!

YES?

AHH!

YOU'LL COME WITH ME NOW, MAMMAL

TRY ANYTHING FUNNY AND I'LL KILL YOU AND HAVE YOU FOR DINNER

DECIDING THAT. DISCRETION WAS THE BETTER PART OF VALOR, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING, JACK GOES WITH THE HUGE EAGLE, WHOSE NAME, HE LEARNS, IS HARPY

HOW DID YOU END UP HERE?

I KILLED MY MATE

THAT STILL SHOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN--

IT WAS THE THIRD TIME

I KILLED THE OTHER TWO TOO

LOVELY...

AH!

THIS IS WHERE I LIVE

COME UP AND SEE!

HEY!!

CREATORS! THE STRENGTH NEEDED-- TO CARRY ME UP THIS HIGH--!

COME IN OUT OF THE COLD, MAMMAL

UGH! I FORGOT BIRDS HAVE NO SENSE OF SMELL!

QUITE A COZY PLACE, HUH?

IT CAN ONLY BE REACHED FROM THE AIR-- ALL THE DOORS ARE SEALED SHUT

KEEPS THE RIFF-RAFF OUT

ALL THE BETTER TO KEEP PEOPLE *IN*, TOO

SO WHY AM I HERE?

TO TRADE INTERIOR DECORATING HINTS?

NOT EXACTLY--

WHA--

NOW YOU DO EXACTLY WHAT I TELL YOU, OR I'LL KILL YOU, UNDERSTAND?

LETS FIRST GET THESE CLOTHES OFF, SHALL WE?

IT WAS THEN THAT JACK REALIZED WHY ***SHE*** HAD BROUGHT HIM THERE...

A COUPLE HOURS LATER

NOT HUNGRY?

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?

HUM?

I THOUGHT THAT WAS OBVIOUS...

BESIDES THAT!

IT'S EASIER FOR A MAMMAL TO DO SOME THINGS...DEAL WITH FOOD COUPONS, AND HUMANS

AND I WANTED A MALE AROUND ME AGAIN

WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE COMING I KNEW YOU WERE WHO I WANTED

FORGIVE ME IF I'M NOT OVERWHELMED WITH GRATITUDE

YOU WILL BE, IN TIME

TIME! I'M NOT STAYING HERE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!

I'M GETTING OUT!

DON'T YOU WISH!

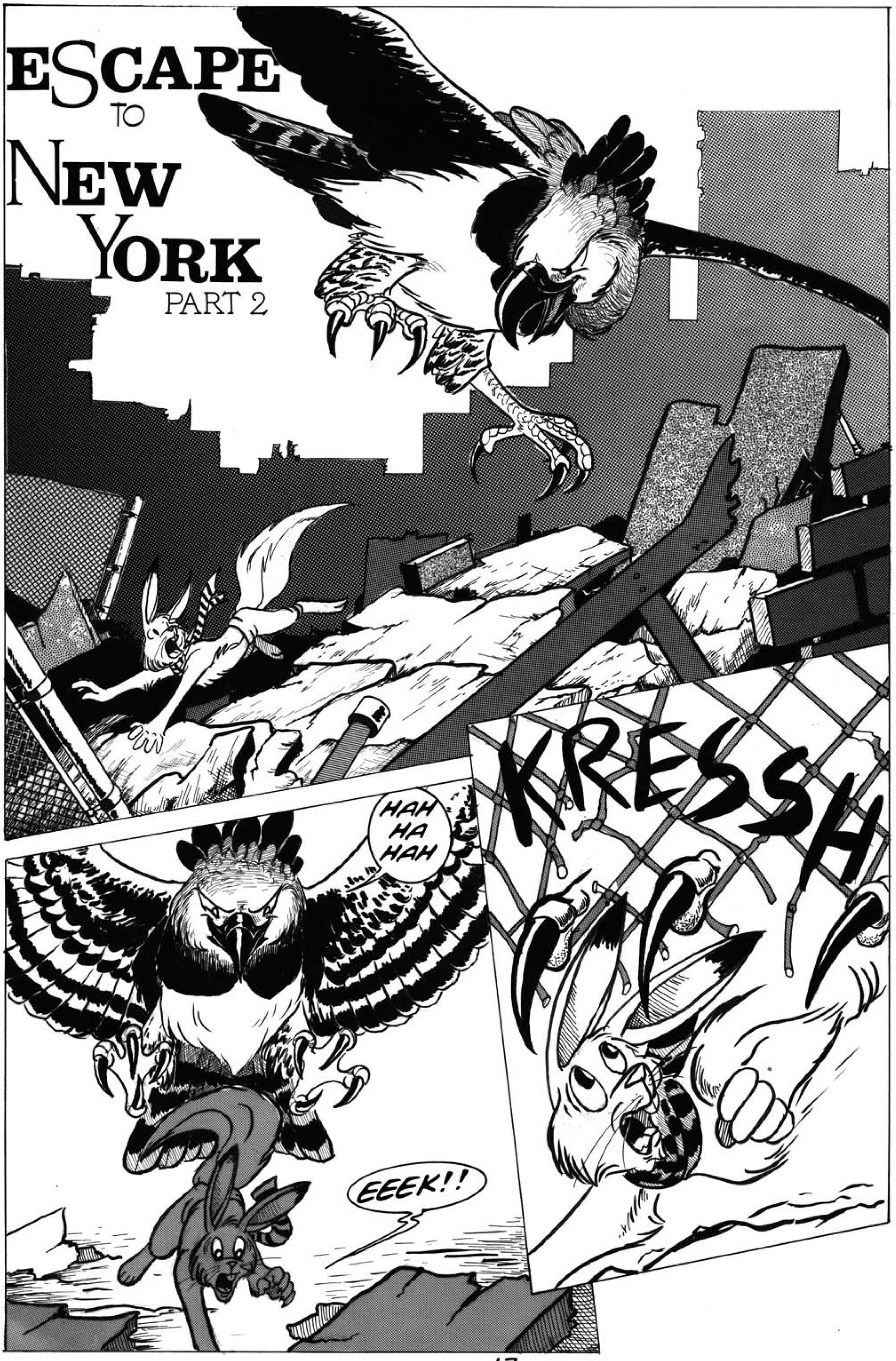
NO ONE GETS OUT!

I KNOW!

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

NOTHING'S IMPOSSIBLE...

ESCAPE TO NEW YORK PART 2



YOU DON'T THINK *THIS* WILL HOLD ME FOR LONG, DO YOU, YOU LITTLE PIPSQUEAK?!

AND AS HARPY EXERTS HER AWE-SOME STRENGTH...

EEEK! EEEK!!

SNAP!

SNAP!

SNAP!

CREEEEAKK

HAH HA HAH!!

NO!! NO!

DON'T EAT ME!

I CAN HELP YOU!

HOLD STILL, YOU!

I GOT THIS STUFF THE HUMANS WILL TAKE IN TRADE FOR FOOD COUPONS!

I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU!

REALLY!

JUST DON'T--

SHUT UP!!
IS THIS STUFF REALLY VALUABLE?
WORTH LOTS OF FOOD COUPONS?
Y-YES
WELL, WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT...
AS SOON AS WE GO COLLECT MY "BETTER HALF"
MOAN...
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
IT'S NOT SIX YET
I'VE ALMOST GOT THIS WORKING...
FORGET THAT!
DINNER HERE SAYS HE'S GOT SOME STUFF THAT THE HUMANS WILL TRADE FOOD COUPONS FOR, AND I WANT YOU TO SEE WHETHER IT'S WORTH ALL THAT
I SUPPOSE IT CAN'T WAIT...
NO!!
YOU GET MOVING BEFORE I SMASH YOUR DUMB RADIO!!
IF HE'S LYING I WANT TO FIND OUT NOW SO'S I CAN EAT HIM!
I'M STARVING!!
GRUMBLE
TWO YEARS, A BROKEN ARM, AND COUNTLESS BRUISES HAD TAUGHT SALEM THAT IT WAS USELESS, AND DANGEROUS, TO GO AGAINST HARPY'S WISHES
HEH HEH
MERLY
WHO KNOWS?
MAYBE THE POOR BASTARD'S STUFF *WILL* BE WORTH SOME COUPONS
NOT THAT IT WILL DO *HIM* ANY GOOD!

AS USUAL IT WAS BITTERLY COLD OUT

SOMETIMES SALEM COULD ALMOST FEEL THE BLACK AND ICY HAND OF THE MAD CREATOR SPREAD ACROSS THE CITY, EYES GLARING DOWN AS HE LOOKED WITH DISAPPROVAL AT THE RUIN HIS ONCE-GREAT METROPOLIS HAD BECOME

LEVEL 8

UP THERE!

IN THERE! LOTSA STUFF! I DON'T LIE!

CAN I GO NOW?

CAN I? HUH?

HOLD ON-- THERE SURE IS A LOT HERE...

WHAT *IS* ALL THAT?

IS IT VALUABLE?

THIS MUST BE SOME OLD LOYALIST* STASH--

INCREDIBLE!

GUNS--!

NO AMMO I LOOKED AUGH

SHUT UP, YOU DINNER!

*AN ULTRA-RIGHT WING TERRORIST GROUP ACTIVE DURING THE FINAL YEARS THE HUMANS OCCUPIED THE CITY

LOTS OF COMPUTER DISCS
ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT
PAPERWORK..
WELL? IS IT WORTH ANYTHING?
CAN WE SELL IT?

YES ALREADY!!
NOW LET ME LOOK THROUGH IT..
I'M STILL HUNGRY
I THINK I'LL EAT YOU ANYWAYS
NO! NO!!

HOLY SHIT...
SOMETHING IN SALEM'S TONE DRAWS HARPY'S ATTENTION FROM HER MEAL
WHAT IS IT?
HELP

LOOK...
DIRTY PICTURES?
SO WHAT?

SO WHAT?
DO YOU REALIZE WHO THESE ARE PICTURES *OF*?!
I DUNNO
ONE OF THEM LOOKS FAMILIAR

JUST FAMILIAR?!
DOES THE OLD GOVERNOR MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?? OR THE GREAT WAR?
HISTORY IS BORING
WHAT GOOD ARE A BUNCH OF OLD PORNO PHOTOS TO ME?

IGNORANT HARRIDAN BITCH!!
IF I'M RIGHT, THEY MIGHT JUST GET US *OUT* OF HERE!

TWO YEARS. YEARS FOR CAREERS AND LIVES TO ADVANCE, TIME TO FORGET ABOUT THE ARREST OF THE .357 KILLER AND WHAT MIGHT'VE HAPPENED TO HIM IN THE CITY OF ICE...

THE BANK STATEMENT CAME YESTERDAY

A FEW MORE MONTHS OF SAVING AND I THINK WE'LL HAVE ENOUGH TO START

THAT'S GREAT

YOU DON'T SOUND TOO THRILLED

WE'VE BEEN SAVING TO OPEN A SHOP FOR OVER A YEAR

YOU'RE NOT HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS *NOW*, ARE YOU?

I DON'T KNOW, JOSH

I THOUGHT THAT WAS WHAT I WANTED

IT WAS ALWAYS MY DREAM TO OWN MY OWN BEAUTY SALON...

BUT--

BUT--

SINCE I WAS PROMOTED THE FORCE HAS BECOME MUCH MORE INTERESTING

I FEEL LIKE I'M REALLY DOING SOME GOOD WITH MY LIFE

HMN

I WON'T BACK OUT NOW, I PROMISE

ITS JUST THAT AFTER TWO YEARS AS A POLICE DETECTIVE, THE THOUGHT OF BEING A HAIR-DRESSER ISN'T AS EXCITING AS IT USED TO BE!

CAROLINA PARAKEET, NOW MRS. WAYKE RAIL, HASN'T SPENT MUCH TIME WORRYING ABOUT THE FATE OF HER FORMER ROOMMATE JACK SALEM, EITHER

I HAVE TO LEAVE FOR WORK IN A FEW MINUTES, ARE YOU SURE YOU'LL BE OKAY UNTIL THE SITTER COMES?

DON'T WORRY! I'VE GOT THIS INCUBATION THING DOWN PAT!

INCU-MATIC

I'M SO EXCITED I CAN HARDLY WAIT!

JUST THINK, IN LESS THAN A MONTH--!

HAVE YOU TALKED TO YOUR SUPERVISOR ABOUT LEAVE YET?

NOT YET -- I WILL THOUGH, SOON

WAITING WON'T HELP

I KNOW

EMPLOYMENT AT THE STORE IS TIGHT RIGHT NOW, BUT DON'T WORRY

YOU'RE NOT THINKING THEY'LL FIRE YOU IF YOU ASK FOR LEAVE--?!

IF THEY WON'T GIVE ME LEAVE THEN I'LL QUIT!

I'M NOT LETTING ANY SITTER FEED *OUR* CHICKS!

SAMMY, THE FINAL MEMBER OF THE TRIO THAT BROUGHT THE .357 KILLER TO JUSTICE, HAS MOVED UP IN THE WORLD TOO...

BLAH BLAH BLAH

SELL AT TEN THOUSAND, NO LESS!

THE BUCK STOPS HERE

I *KNOW* THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMPANY WAS JUST ARRESTED FOR FRAUD!

HOLD OUT FOR TEN THOU ANYWAYS

SCANDALS MAKE A STOCK GO UP!

BLAH BLAH

SAMMY-- YOUR MOTHER WANTS TO KNOW WHAT TIME YOU'LL BE HOME FOR DINNER

I DON'T KNOW!

TELL'ER TO CALL BACK!

BUZZ BUZZ

YES SIR

(JEEZE, CAN'T GET ANY PEACE FROM HER EVEN AT THE OFFICE!!)

DALTON DALTON LITTLE NEWPORT

SAMMY HERE

BEEP

AH, SAMMY BOY!

THE VEEP WANTS YOU AT THE MEETING ON FLOOR 250 AT THREE

BRING THE TECHNICOMP REPORT TOO

YEAH, I KNOW, KEEP YER PANTIES ON

HUMPH! STUPID FLUNKY!

AT THE RATE I'M GOING I'LL BE PRESIDENT OF THE COMPANY BY THE TIME I'M 18

BUT WHAT THEN?

WHAT WILL THERE BE LEFT TO DO?

ALTHOUGH "OFFICIALLY" THERE'S TO BE NO CONTACT BETWEEN THE HUMANS WHO RUN THE DEPROCESSING CENTER AND THE CITY'S INMATES, THAT'S NOT ALWAYS THE CASE

THE SISTERS OF REMINDUM

FOLLOWING SALEM'S INSTRUCTIONS, HARPY CONTACTS ONE OF THESE 'COVERT BLACKMARKET DEALERS AND SETS UP A MEETING

LOOK

SO, WHAT'VE YOU GOT?

THERE'S A LOT MORE WHERE THIS CAME FROM

HMN...OLD LOYALIST STUFF

I THOUGHT THE CITY'D BEEN PICKED CLEAN

NOT QUITE

COMPUTER DISCS, DOCUMENTS--

INTERESTING...

AND *THESE*

A SOFT WHISTLE OF ASTONISHMENT, THE SHARP SCENT OF EXCITEMENT AND THE EXPRESSION OF AVARICE TELL SALEM THE PHOTOS WERE AS VALUABLE AS HE THOUGHT THEY'D BE

CALL ME BUD

WHERE DID YOU *GET* THESE?!

THE SAME LOYALIST STASH

THERE'S A DOZEN MORE

SO WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR THEM?

CALL ME BUD

OUT

NO! NO WAY!

NO ONE LEAVES!

DON'T GIVE ME THAT BULLSHIT!

IF YOU DON'T WANT THESE PICTURES I'M CERTAIN THERE'S OTHERS WHO *DO!*

AND WOULD BE WILLING TO PAY OUR PRICE!

TENSE MOMENTS PASS AS THE DEALER WEIGHS RISKS VERSUS REWARDS

BUT GREED EVENTUALLY WINS OUT

ALL ME BUD

IF THEY CATCH US WE'RE ALL DEAD

ALL THE MORE REASON NOT TO GET CAUGHT, EH?

YOU GET THE STASH NOW, AND *ONE* PHOTO

I WANT THE PICTURES NOW

YOU GET THE REST OF THE PICTURES *WHEN* WE ARRIVE SAFELY ON EARTH

YOU JUST BE DAMN SURE ABOUT THAT!

I DON'T TRUST HIM

NEITHER DO I. BUT WE'LL HAVE TO FOR NOW

ALTHOUGH SALEM HAD DISCOVERED EARLY ON THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO SNEAK ABOARD A SHIP ALONE, WITH INSIDE HELP IT WAS SURPRISINGLY, MADDENINGLY SIMPLE

THE SHIPS ARE SO MASSIVE, AND THE CREWS SO SMALL, THAT IT IS A RELATIVELY EASY MATTER TO REMAIN UNDETECTED AMID THE NUMEROUS UNUSED HALLS AND ROOMS

500 YARDS LONG

120

CORRIDORS 120, 121 & 122 TO REMAIN UNOCCUPIED

YOU'RE STILL NOT THINKING ABOUT THOSE DUMB PICTURES AGAIN, ARE YOU?

WHY DIDN'T THE LOYALISTS MAKE THEM PUBLIC?

IT MIGHT'VE MADE HIM ANGRY ENOUGH TO DO SOMETHING RASH

WHO CARES? THEY'RE ALL DEAD NOW

IF YOU WANT TO THINK ABOUT SOMETHING, THINK ABOUT HOW WE'RE GOING TO GET THAT JUDGE

KIDNAPPING A JUDGE IS THE MOST ASININE IDEA I'VE EVER HEARD OF!

I DIDN'T ASK FOR YOUR DAMN OPINION!

YOUR MIND'S NOT ON THIS!

PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT YOU'RE DOING!

YES 'DEAR'

THE OLD PHOTODS WAIT. PICTURES OF A LEADER LONG DEAD, AND HIS MISTRESS, AND HIS MISTRESS'S *HUSBAND*

JUST A FEW MORE WEEKS...

WHO SAID HISTORY WAS USELESS?

AND AT LAST--
NEW YORK!

ANOTHER 6-MONTH T.O.D. ON THE PLANET MAXWELL AT AN END...

EAGER TO GET TO THE TRAIN THAT WILL FERRY THEM BACK TO THE FREE HUMAN REPUBLIC, THE PASSENGERS AND CREW WASTE NO TIME DISEMBARKING

EXCEPT FOR ONE WHO WATCHES THEM

AND WAITS

--TIME TO CLEAR OUT BEFORE THE CLEANING CREW MOVES IN--

I'M HUNGRY

YA'LL CAN GIMME THOSE PICTURES NOW

OF COURSE

I'VE GOT THEM RIGHT HERE

HAH!

ANY SHOCK SHOW WOULD PAY A MINT FOR THESE!

I'M SURE

HEY-- WHERE'D THAT BIG CHICKEN GET TO?

YOU CAN'T GO WANDERIN' OFF UNTIL WE'RE OUTTA HERE

HELL, I COULD USE THEM TO BLACKMAIL THE GOVERNOR!

CALL ME B

THESE *ARE* HIS PARENTS, AFTER ALL

DON'T WORRY-- SHE'S RIGHT HERE

YAHH!

I DON'T THINK HE'LL BE NEEDING *THESE* ANY MORE
MINE!
KEEP IT
HE SHOULD HAVE THE OTHER PICTURE ON HIM SOMEWHERE, SO DON'T EAT *THAT!*
YES!!

ESCAPE TO NEW York

Part 3

NEW YORK CITY DISTRICT COURTHOUSE 5, 3:00 AM

TOO LATE FOR LAWYERS BURNING THE MIDNIGHT OIL, TOO EARLY FOR THE FIRST SHIFT OF OFFICE WORKERS

SECURITY IS LIGHT-- THERE'S NOTHING OF VALUE. JUST SOME FURNITURE, OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES. NOTHING WORTH GOING TO THE TROUBLE OF STEALING

COURTROOM 2

COURTR 2

THEN, OF COURSE, THERE ARE THE JUSTICE COMPUTERS

BUT *NO ONE* WOULD WANT TO STEAL A JUSTICE COMPUTER, WOULD THEY?

BUT THEN, THIS IS NEW YORK CITY...

THEFT OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY CARRIES A HEAVY PENALTY...

WHO IS THERE? THIS COURT DOES NOT CONVENE UNTIL 9 A.M.

SHUT UP AND KEEP YOUR WIRES QUIET UNLESS YOU WANT TO BE POUNDED INTO WASTE METAL

I SAID BE QUIET

CREEAKK

IF YOU CEASE YOUR EFFORTS I MIGHT BE CONVINCED TO--

CLANNG!

10 AM THE NEXT DAY

DON'T GET TOO COMFEY NOW, I GOT A REAL DOOZY OF A CASE FOR YOU

DON'T GO OUT OF YOUR WAY FOR *ME!*

I DON'T HAVE TO, THESE NUTTY CASES JUST GET DROPPED IN MY LAP

WOULD YOU BELIEVE SOME ASSHOLE STOLE THE JUSTICE COMPUTER OUT OF COURTHOUSE 5 LAST NIGHT?

THE JUSTICE COMPUTER?

SOMEONE STOLE A *JUSTICE COMPUTER?!*

WHAT KIND OF AN IDIOT WOULD WANT TO STEAL A JUSTICE COMPUTER?

THAT'S FOR YOU TO FIND OUT

I'M PUTTING YOU ON THIS CASE

THANKS LOADS...

WE FIGURE IT HAS TO BE SOME NUT WITH A GRUDGE AGAINST THIS PARTICULAR JUSTICE, PROBABLY AN EX-CON OR THE RELATIVE OF ONE

HERE ARE THE RECORDS OF ALL THE CASES GOING BACK SIX MONTHS SEEN BY THIS PARTICULAR JC

IF THAT DOESN'T PAN OUT WE HAVE RECORDS GOING BACK 5 YEARS

≋BLAH≋

AND GET CRACKING ON IT *NOW!* I DON'T WANT ANY OF YOUR STALLING ON THIS ONE

I *DON'T* STALL!

BUT WHAT'S THE RUSH?

THIS JC WAS INVOLVED IN AN IMPORTANT TRIAL-- AN *EXPENSIVE* TRIAL--

IF WE DON'T GET IT BACK BEFORE THE WEEKLY 'SWEEP' ALL THE COURT RECORDS IN IT WILL BE LOST AND THEY'LL HAVE TO DECLARE A MISTRIAL

ALL RIGHT-- I'M ON IT!

BUT THINGS WOULD GO *MUCH* QUICKER IF YOU'D LET ME HAVE AN ASSISTANT-- LIKE THAT FINE YOUNG OFFICER THEY JUST BROUGHT IN ON FLOOR 15--

SARGE! SARGE!

I GOT THE INFO YOU WANTED ON THAT HOMICIDE, AND IT AIN'T GOOD

SHIT! I KNEW THIS CASE WAS GONNA CAUSE TROUBLE!

WELL, LET'S HEAR IT

YOU THINK HE SHOULD HEAR?

I MEAN--

NEVER MIND HIM!!

SPIT IT OUT!

IS THIS ABOUT THAT HUMAN WHO WAS KILLED?

HIS NAME WAS FREDDY 'BUD' BUDINSKY, A REAL LOSER

OUR PEOPLE IN THE FHR* JUST GOT BACK TO ME ON HIM--

I THOUGHT THE REPUBLIC HUMANS HANDLED THEIR OWN CASES

HE WAS KILLED IN *MY* DISTRICT AND I'M GONNA INVESTIGATE IT WHETHER THOSE SNOBBY PRICKS LIKE IT OR NOT!

GO ON!!

HE WAS A WORKER IN THE CITY OF ICE

HE USE'TA BE A GUARD BUT HE GOT DEMOTED BECAUSE OF CORRUPTION

HE'D JUST GOTTEN BACK FROM HIS LATEST TOUR WHEN HE WAS KILLED

THIS ISN'T EXACTLY EARTH-SHATTERING, BUCKY

*THE FREE HUMAN REPUBLIC, ESTABLISHED BY TREATY IN PENNSYLVANIA AFTER THE GREAT WAR

BUT THAT AIN'T ALL, SARGE

THEY HAD HIM UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR SUSPECTED BLACKMARKET DEALINGS WITH THE CITY'S INMATES, AND, UH...

WHAT?

WHAT?!

THERE'S RUMORS...TALK IN THE FHR GUARDHOUSES, THAT HE MIGHT'VE MANAGED TO SMUGGLE AN INMATE BACK TO EARTH, WHO TURNED ON HIM AND KILLED HIM

THEY FOUND A BUNCH OF VALUABLE LOYALIST THINGS IN HIS QUARTERS, PROBABLY A BRIBE

DAMN! SHIT! FUCK!! WHY ME?! WHY ME?!

SOME CRAZY PSYCHO-KILLER FROM THE CITY LOOSE DOWN HERE!

JUST WHAT I NEED!!

UH... THE CHIEF WANTED ME TO MENTION THAT WE'VE GOT ANOTHER HOMICIDE...

WHAT?!

SMALL CITIZEN, TORN TO PIECES AND PARTIALLY EATEN, FOUND OUTSIDE'A CENTRAL PARK THIS MORNING

THE CHIEF THINKS IT'S AN RC* KILLING AND IS PUTTING PFIRSICH ON IT

ERRR....

*REGRESSED CARNIVORE

WHY DO THESE THINGS ALWAYS HAPPEN IN *MY* DISTRICT?! EVERYONE ELSE GETS BLUE JAY WALKING AND WIFE BEATING, BUT I GET SOME NUT WHO STEALS A JUSTICE COMPUTER, AND NOW I GOT A PSYCHO FROM THE CITY OF ICE RUNNING AROUND LOOSE AND SOME CARNIVORE WHO AIN'T HAPPY WITH SYNTHETIC MEAT AND WANTS THE REAL STUFF

WAIT UP!

IT'S SHIT LIKE THIS THAT MAKES ME WANT TO RUN OFF TO JAPAN AND BE A MONK! WHY I PUT UP WITH THIS I CAN'T--

BUT THERE'S THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE UP THERE..

IT'S JUST TOO SILLY TO EVEN CONTEMPLATE

THE NEXT DAY, GOLDEN $IRCLE DEPARTMENT STORE, SEVERANCE CENTER MALL, JERSEY

ANNTOO

Jersey Cryme

the lamb

FOXTROT

Wind & Wuthering

ling England BY THE POUND

FRIDAY the 13th CXXXIV

A Curious Feeling

HAVE A NICE DAY!

HOLD ON-- I'LL BE WITH YOU IN A MINUTE

CAN I HELP YOU--

I THINK SO, CAROLINA

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO?

JACK!

JAA--

*

KLUNK

IT'S A SHAME THAT WITH ALL THESE SECURITY DEVICES THEY DON'T KEEP BETTER TRACK OF THEIR EMPLOYEES

=SCHNUCK=

JEEZE, WHAT A DAY!,

DDLN inc.

Dalton Dalton Little NewPort

SECURITY

AND IT'S ONLY TUESDAY

=YAWN=

THE CONFEDERATION NEVER SHOULD'VE ENTERED THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL NET--

HOLD ON ONE MOMENT AND I'LL SEE--

THERE'S SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO TALK TO YOU

SAYS IT'S URGENT

DAMN BUSINESS!

WHO IS IT?

WAYKE RAIL?

≥SIGH≤

YEAH? THIS IS SAMMY

THANK THE CREATORS I WAS ABLE TO REACH YOU!

YOU REMEMBER ME-- CAROLINA PARAKEET'S HUSBAND?

YEAH-- YOU SENT ME A PICTURE OF THE WEDDING

YOU WANNA BUY SOME STOCKS?

I'M GONNA MISS MY TRAIN...

NO NO, IT'S CAROLINA-- SHE'S MISSING

SHE NEVER CAME HOME FROM WORK

I HAVEN'T SEEN HER IN MONTHS

NO, I DIDN'T THINK SO...

I WAS HOPING YOU COULD CONTACT THE POLICE FOR ME

THE POLICE?

SHE DIDN'T COME HOME AFTER WORK, AND WHEN I CALLED THE STORE HER SUPERVISOR SAID SHE'D DISAPPEARED IN THE MIDDLE OF HER SHIFT AND NO ONE HAS SEEN HER SINCE

MAYBE SHE JUST GOT MAD AND QUIT

NO, I ***KNOW*** SHE WOULDN'T DO THAT

WE'RE....EXPECTING A FAMILY, AND I KNOW SHE WOULDN'T RUN OFF WITHOUT TELLING ME

SOMETHING MUST'VE HAPPENED TO HER, I'M ***SURE*** OF IT!

YOU'VE CALLED THE POLICE ALREADY?

THEY WON'T PUT OUT A MISSING PERSON UNTIL 48 HOURS, AND I'M SCARED BY THEN IT MIGHT BE TOO LATE!

YOU USED TO WORK THERE-- COULDN'T YOU ***PLEASE*** CALL ONE OF YOUR FRIENDS AND SEE WHETHER THEY CAN ACT ANY SOONER?

WELL, I GUESS I COULD GIVE THE GAY BIRD A RING--

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

PLEASE CALL ME AND LET ME KNOW WHAT THEY SAID, I'M JUST SICK WITH WORRY! THE NUMBERS' 259-26--

YEAH YEAH, I'LL CALL YOU BACK LATER TONIGHT

MISSED THE DAMN TRAIN FOR SURE

GUESS I'LL HAVE TO TRY AND HOP THE SUBWAY INSTEAD

IF IT'S NOT ONE THING IT'S ANOTHER

SOMETIMES I THINK I SHOULD'A STAYED A POLICE OFFICE FLUNKY

HEY!!

BUMP

WATCH IT!

ERR--

HUH--?!

YOU YELL FOR HELP-ANYTHING- AND I'LL RIP YOUR THROAT OPEN, GOT IT?

=MURPH=

HOW DID YOU GET BACK?

WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO KNOW?

NOW LISTEN CAREFULLY

WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A NICE WALK TO A BANK MACHINE, WHERE YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE A LARGE WITHDRAWAL--

OWW!!

STOP IT!!

YOU TRY ANYTHING AND I'LL RIP YOUR JUGULAR AND LET THIS CRETIN BIRD EAT YOU

AND I'M *NOT* KIDDING.

WHAT DOES "CRETIN" MEAN?

SAMMY-BOY, I THINK YOU ARE IN ***SERIOUS*** TROUBLE!

HE MUST'VE GRABBED CAROLINA PARAKEET TOO

WHAT DOES "CRETIN" MEAN?

TELL ME!

I WONDER IF SHE'S STILL ALIVE?

I DON'T THINK I'LL BE MAKING THAT CALL TO THE GAY BIRD, EITHER.

THE ONE TIME I COULD REALLY USE HIM

OY....

IN NEW YORK CITY, IN HARLEM, THE BRONX, ONSHORE IN NEW JERSEY, TO THE EAST IN BROOKLYN, LIE SOME OF THE OLDEST DREAM MACHINE STRUCTURES: THE PUBLIC HOUSING COMPLEXES

BUILT BACK WITHIN A DECADE OF THE MACHINES' INVENTION, THEY COVERED A QUARTER OF THE LAND ZONED FOR HOUSING

MASSIVE STRUCTURES CONTAINING HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF UNITS-- FREE AND SAFE HOUSING FOR THE CITY'S POOR

IN THE MORE ANARCHISTIC TIMES DECADES AGO THEY WERE HAVENS FOR GANGS, OR SECLUDED PLACES FOR THE NATIONAL GUARD TO TAKE UNFORTUNATE VICTIMS

THE GHOSTS OF THE MILLIONS OF HUMANS WHO WERE KILLED IN THEM DURING THE MAD CREATOR'S GENOCIDE MADE GOOD COMPANY

NOW, IN THE RELATIVE PEACE AFTER THE GREAT WAR, THEY REMAIN MOSTLY DESERTED. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SOCIAL STIGMA ATTATCHED TO LIVING IN THE PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS

WHOLE WINGS ARE EMPTY OF PEOPLE. RESIDENTS CAN GO WEEKS WITHOUT SEEING ANOTHER SOUL IN THEIR BUILDING...

HEY!
I SAID I WANT OUTTA HERE!
I GOTTA GO TO THE BATHROOM, DAMMIT!!
YELLING IS INAFFECTIVE
I GOTTA DO SOMETHING! I CAN'T WAIT ANY MORE
GRRR
MAYBE THEY'RE NOT HERE?
YOU PRISONERS KEEP QUIET!
I'M WATCHING TV

Escape to New York #4

UNLOCK THESE THINGS! I HAVE TO GO TO THE BATHROOM

I CAN'T. SALEM HAS THE KEYS, AND HE'S NOT HERE

WHERE IS HE?

TO VISIT HIS OLD WORKPLACE, HE SAID

I DON'T KNOW WHEN HE'LL BE BACK

GROAN

PLEASE LET US GO! WE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TO YOU!

SHUT UP!!

ANY MORE NOISE AND I'LL COME BACK IN AND GOUGE YOUR EYES OUT!!

THREATS WILL NOT SWAY US

(SPEAK FOR YOURSELF!)

GEEZE CAROLINA, YOU NEVER SAID SALEM HAD THIS *THING* FOR BIG, AGGRESSIVE WOMEN!

SLAM!

WHY DO YOU SAY THE BIRD IS FEMALE? I CANNOT TELL

BECAUSE HER AND SALEM ARE MORE THAN 'JUST FRIENDS,' IF YOU GET MY BROADCAST

THESE WALLS ARE KINDA THIN

I...I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!

HE NEVER BROUGHT HOME ANY GIRLS WHEN WE WERE ROOMMATES

HOW CAN YOU NOT KNOW SHE'S A HER ANYHOW, JUSTICE COMP?

YOU'RE THE ONE SHE WANTED TO KIDNAP!

THAT IS CORRECT

BUT MY SHORT-TERM MEMORY IS LIMITED TO MY CURRENT TRIAL

ALL LONG-TERM DATA IS STORED IN THE MAIN JUSTICE COMPUTER STORAGE BANK

IF I AM NOT HOOKED UP TO MY BENCH I HAVE NO ACCESS TO IT

YOU MEAN SHE'S GONNA BUST YOU UP AND YOU DON'T EVEN REMEMBER WHY?!!

THAT IS CORRECT

IT IS CLEAR THAT SHE IS A DANGEROUS SOCIOPATH, AND I WAS CORRECT TO SENTENCE HER TO THE CITY OF ICE

LOTTA GOOD *THAT* DID

THE CREATORS ONLY KNOW HOW THEY GOT BACK, BUT I KNOW SALEM WILL NEVER LET US GO ALIVE

DON' KNOW WHY WE'RE ***STILL*** ALIVE

=SOB=

OH, HEY!

I DIDN'T MEAN--

MY HUSBAND MUST BE SO WORRIED

WE'VE BEEN GONE OVER A DAY

YEAH, I BET MY MOMS' HAVING A FIT BY NOW

THE BIRD SAID SALEM WENT BACK TO HIS OLD WORKPLACE

WHERE'S THAT?

THE CITY POWER-PLANT, THE BIG ONE

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'D WANT THERE, THOUGH

HE HATED WORK

HE IS UNDOUBTEDLY ENGAGED IN MORE ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

HE USED TO BE A SECURITY GUARD

AN IRONIC TWIST TO DEVIANT BEHAVIOR

I WOULDN'T BE SURPRIZED

LET'S HOPE, WHATEVER IT IS, THAT IT GETS HIM ***CAUGHT!***

MEANWHILE, THE GAY BIRD'S INVESTIGATION INTO THE THEFT OF THE MISSING JUSTICE COMPUTER IS STALLED, AND A NAGGING WORRY WON'T LET HIM CONCENTRATE

BLAH BLAH

HUMM HUM HUM

GRR

I WANT THIS CASE SOLVED AND I WANT IT SOLVED *NOW!!*

BLAH BLAH BLAH

NOT TO MENTION A FEW *OTHER* DISTRACTIONS

BUT SARGE! I'VE ALREADY DONE ALL I CAN!

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT! DO MORE!!

BUT THE FHR WON'T LET US--

SCREW THEM!! I DON'T CARE HOW! JUST DO IT! DO I HAVE TO THINK FOR EVERYONE AROUND HERE?!

BUT--

I'M SURROUNDED BY IDIOTS! DAYS PASS--*DAYS!*--AND STILL NOTHING! IF IT WAS UP TO ME I'D HAVE THE LOT OF YOU FIRED! I HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING MYSELF! I HATE THIS! WHY I BECAME A COP I'LL NEVER KNOW! I WON'T--

FOR THE CREATOR'S SAKE SARGE, STOP COMPLAINING!!

JUST BEND OVER AND TAKE THE PAIN!!

OOPS!

UM, PARDON ME! THAT WAS REALLY GROSS--

WELL-- AT LEAST THAT OUGHTA SHUT HIM UP FOR A WHILE.
POOR BUCKY
=RING= =RING=
G-BIRD
PRECINCT 18, GAY BIRD HERE
OH MR. BIRD, THANK GOD YOU'RE IN!
MY LITTLE SAMMY IS MISSING! HE NEVER CAME HOME LAST NIGHT!
WHAT?
BOOHOO HOO THOSE HORRIBLE CORPORATE RAIDERS KIDNAPPED HIM, I'M SURE OF IT!!
YOU HAVE TO HELP FIND HIM!
THEY TOOK HIM TO SINGAPORE, I KNOW THEY DID!!
NOW WHAT A SEC, MRS. BELASKO--
RING RING
DAMN--
HOLD ON, I HAVE ANOTHER CALL--
BOO HOO--
=CLICK=
HELLO? HELLO?
I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, MR. BIRD, BUT DID SAMMY EVER GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU ABOUT CAROLINA?
SHE'S BEEN MISSING OVER 24 HOURS, AND--
WHAT?
SAY AGAIN?!

THE GAY BIRD SWITCHES TO THREE-PARTY CALL, IN HOPE THAT WILL CLEAR THINGS UP, WITH LITTLE SUCCESS...

--SHE NEVER ...D--

--DIDN'T COME HOME AT ALL LAST NIG...

-- I'M SO SCARED--

≋BOO HOO≋

...E ALWAYS WORKED TOO LATE--

YOU MEAN SAMMY NEVER EVEN CALLED YOU?

--I DON'T KNOW--

AH

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO

THE OTHER EXECUTIVES WERE JEALOUS OF HIM

≋SOB SOB≋

UMM

OKAY, LISTEN

YOU'VE...UM...GIVEN ME A LOT OF INFORMATION TO WORK WITH

GIVE ME AN HOUR TO PUT IT ONLINE AND I'LL GET BACK TO YOU

SOMEONE TELL ME THIS ISN'T HAPPENING!

NO ONE WILL BELIEVE ME IF I TELL THEM WHAT I SUSPECT

I'VE GOT TO GET SOME KIND OF PROOF!

SO, HOW ARE WE ALL DOING THIS MORNING?

AS IF YOU CARE

TSK, SUCH GRATITUDE...

YEAH, THE FIRST FOOD WE'VE GOTTEN SINCE WE'VE BEEN HERE, AND I DON'T EVEN LIKE MCDONALD'S

BLEAH

EAT IT OR STARVE, I DON'T CARE

GRUNT

--SCRAMBLED EGGS

BOO HOO

I MYSELF HAD A NICE BREAKFAST--

≥SOB≤

HEH HEH

THAT WAS UNNECCESSARY INFORMATION

YOU ASKED HOW I GOT OFF THAT ICE-BALL--

GET A LOAD OF *THESE!*

SAMMY! YOU'RE BLUSHING!

HOLY TOLEDO! WHERE DID YOU *GET* THESE?!

A STASH OF OLD LOYALIST STUFF I FOUND IN THE CITY

QUITE AN EYEFULL, EH?

I FIGURED THE HUMANS WOULD DO ANYTHING TO GET THEIR HANDS ON THOSE PHOTOS, AND I WAS RIGHT

I'D HEARD THE RUMORS... BUT I DIDN'T BELIEVE-- I DIDN'T THINK THEY WERE *TRUE!*

OOOGG

NEW DATA IS LEARNED EVERY DAY

ALL THESE PICTURES ARE FROM THE SAME ANGLE, YOU CAN SEE THE LOYALISTS MUST'VE PLANTED A CAMERA IN THE BEDROOM. I'D LOVE TO KNOW HOW THEY PULLED *THAT* ONE OFF!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND

THESE PICTURES ARE WORTH A FORTUNE!

YOU COULD HAVE SOLD THEM AND DISSAPPEARED

WHY RISK EVERYTHING JUST TO GET US?

THERE'S NO RISK

THE POLICE ARE JUST AS STUPID AS THEY WERE 2 YEARS AGO!

I NEVER WOULD HAVE BEEN CAUGHT AT ALL IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR--

TREACHERY!!

DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF, BUSTER!

WE WERE A LOT CLOSER TO CATCHING YOU THAN YOU'D LIKE TO THINK!

BASH!

AND DON'T THINK I FORGOT WHAT *YOU* DID!

I'M GOING TO PAY YOU BACK FOR EVERY MINUTE I SPENT ON THAT PLANET!

AFTER SALEM LEAVES...

HE'S GONNA KILL US ALL.... I THINK HE'S JUST PUTTING IT OFF UNTIL HE CAN GET THE GAY BIRD

ONCE HE KILLS HIM WE'RE ALL DEAD

I SUGGEST WE PUT OUR THOUGHTS AND EFFORTS TOWARDS ESCAPE

I BELIEVE I HAVE A FEASIBLE PLAN--

LATER THAT DAY...

IF THE SARGE CATCHES ME, I'M IN BIG TROUBLE, BUT I'VE *GOT* TO KNOW!

FHR MAIN PRISONER CLEARING STATION, LIEUTENANT STROVINSKI SPEAKING--

=BEEP=

THIS IS DETECTIVE BIRD FROM THE NEW YORK CITY POLICE

I NEED TO KNOW THE STATUS OF A PRISONER IN THE CITY OF ICE

THAT IS ALL CLASSIFIED

THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT POLICE MATTER, I NEED--

WHAT YOU NEED DOESN'T CONCERN US

ALL CITY OF ICE INFORMATION IS CLASSIFIED

THE STATUS OF THE PRISONERS IS NO ONE'S BUSINESS BUT OURS

"CLASSIFIED" MY BLUE ASS!

LET'S SEE HOW CLASSIFIED HE WANTS TO MAKE IT!

YOU LISTEN HERE!!

ONE OF YOUR PEOPLE WAS KILLED IN NEW YORK LAST WEEK, AND WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE IT WAS DONE BY A PRISONER FROM THE CITY OF ICE HE SMUGGLED BACK!

NOW YOU GIVE ME THE INFORMATION I WANT, OR I'M GOING STRAIGHT TO THE MEDIA AND TELLING THEM THAT THE CITY OF ICE ISN'T AS SECURE AS YOU-ALL SAY IT IS!!

YOU GIVE ME WHAT I WANT, AND WE'LL JUST KEEP THIS LITTLE RISQUE BUSINESS BETWEEN US POLICE FORCES

HMN?

IT DOESN'T TAKE LT. STOVINSKI LONG TO DECIDE THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH SOME CLASSIFIED INFO BETWEEN FORCES...

DOWNLOADING NOW

IF WORD OF THIS GETS OUT WE'LL HAVE YOUR HEAD!

AT LEAST IT WOULD ADD SOME COLOR TO THAT ROOM!

OFF-LINE

SO HERE'S THE LIST OF ALL THE PRISONERS WHO HAVEN'T SHOWN UP FOR THEIR FOOD RATIONS IN THE LAST 2 MONTHS

LET'S SEE

SO MANY PEOPLE

Ian Gooding	Doctor HaHa
Doug Walker	Beth Maki
Harpy Eagle	Fatt Kitty
Nasos	Phainopepla
Jeem	Akin Iyapo
Pon Post	Rune Mole
Russ Post	Dumpy Mole
Pomerine Jaeger	R. B. Phalarope
Cooper Hawk	Anthony Phillips
Colleen Doran	Ashley
Buddy Willis	King Eider
Buller Shearwater	Avocet
Jeff Goodman	Corin Falcon
Roger pearson	Matusi
Juliana Korsborne	Swainson Thrush
Dave Hogan	Dickcissisel
Toland	Babe Levy
Dinjar	Captain Nemo
Rael	Melodious Grassquit

Hector Wolf	Rebecca Mole
Brent Donewitz	Rose Healer
Simone DeBovior	Steve Hackett
Kimba	Continga
Adam Raccoon	R. B. Becard
Whimbrel	Jacana
Cullian	Pyewacket
Crested Cara Cara	Little Georgie
Lenny Vlassic	Bernni
Palmer Courtland	Chedd Launderland
Smew	Kevin Smith
King Aren	Jack Salem
Temmick Stint	Costa Hummingbird
Tony Banks	Talwe
Vaux Swift	Phil Collins
Albert Towhee	Graham Diamond
Harold the Barrel	Wolfen
Hermaphroditis	Jeff Lynne

Jack Salem

NO!!

WE WILL WAIT UNTIL THEY ARE OTHERWISE OCCUPIED TONIGHT BEFORE ATTEMPTING OUR ESCAPE

YOU WILL TEAR YOUR JACKET INTO A ROPE

BUT IT'S A 200 DOLLAR JACKET!

SAMMY!!

YOU WILL THROW IT TO CAROLINA, WHO WILL HOLD IT

YOU CAN PULL HER CAGE TO YOU AND OPEN IT. SHE CAN THEN TEAR OPEN THE WINDOW SCREEN AND FLY FOR HELP

EASIER SAID THAN DONE!

WE HAVE TO TRY!

GOT IT!

ANOTHER VICTORY FOR COMPUTER JUSTICE

DON'T PULL SO HARD!

THIS CAGE IS FRIGGIN' HEAVY!

UH OH!

CRASH!

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT SOME *IDLE TIME* ON OUR HANDS!

IT WAS ALL *HIS* IDEA!

THAT IS CORRECT

JC-5

SO IT WAS

BUT I ALWAYS HAD A FEELING YOU WOULD GIVE ME THE MOST TROUBLE

FURTHER VIOLENCE IS UNCALLED FOR

NO! DON'T HURT ME!

I WON'T DO IT AGAIN!

YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT!

I ALWAYS THOUGHT VERY INTENSE PAIN IS A LOT LIKE VERY INTENSE SEX, DON'T YOU?

JACK!! NO!!

AHH

ANY MORE FUNNY BUSINESS FROM ANY OF YOU AND I'LL BUST HIS OTHER ARM!

I DON'T NEED HIM IN ONE PIECE, JUST ALIVE!!

THE DOOR SLAMS AS SALEM STORMS OUT, AND THE CAPTIVES ARE LEFT ALONE

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

I AM NOT ORDINARILY A PIOUS COMPUTER, BUT THE ONLY COURSE OF ACTION AVAILABLE TO US NOW IS PRAYER...

THE NEXT MORNING THE GAY BIRD FINDS A MESSAGE ON HIS OFFICE COMP.

P.P. 18 Comp. Mess. 009
8-27-2403 comp. 88 pub. ac.

Unless you're a total idiot you've probably figured what's going on by now. Come to the north city power plant at 6 tonight. Alone. If I see or smell another cop they're both dead. Meet my terms and I might let them go alive.

J.S.

OFFICER BIRD?

TAKE ME WITH YOU

I'M SMALL. I CAN HIDE UNDER YOUR SHIRT AND HE'LL NEVER SEE ME

WHAT COULD YOU DO?

I DON'T KNOW

I'LL TRY TO HELP IF I CAN

AT LEAST YOU WON'T BE ALONE

I GUESS THAT'S ALL I CAN ASK FOR

ESCAPE to NEW YORK part 5

YOU'RE A DISGRACE TO THE FAMILY!

WE WANT NOTHING MORE TO DO WITH YOU!!

DO YOU HAVE ANY CHILDREN?

YOU ARE HEREBY SENTENCED TO THE CITY OF ICE

K-5

HOW DOES IT FEEL NOW?

THOSE PICTURES ARE WORTH A MINT. IT MAKES ME REEL JUST TO THINK ABOUT IT

BUT WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO LATER?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT

WHAT?

I SAID--

DO YOU HAVE ANY CHILDREN?

I DID, A COUPLE

THE STATE TOOK THEM AWAY WHEN I WAS SENT TO THE CITY

I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE NOW

DON'T YOU WANT TO FIND THEM?

NO

BUT--

BE QUIET, OR I'LL DROP YOU!

CAROLINA SAYS NOTHING ELSE, KNOWING SHE'S AT THE MERCY OF TWO CREATURES DEVOID OF FEELINGS OR COMPASSION

HOW MUCH DO I BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?

IN THE EASTERN CONFEDERATION, ALL FIREARMS ARE CONTROLLED BY THE STATE. ONLY THE MILITARY HAS UNLIMITED ACCESS TO THEM, WHILE LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES HAVE TO MAKE DO AS BEST THEY CAN...

WEAPONS

NS UT

SO, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU THIS AFTERNOON?

I NEED A WEAPONS CHECK-OUT

YOU DO, EH?

HERE'S MY AUTHORIZATION

I NEED A CONCEALBLE AND AN ANTI-TERRORIST SNIPER--

YEAH, SURE

MUMBLE GRUMBLE

FRIENDLY SORT, AIN'T HE?

THEY'RE VERY STINGY WITH THEIR GUNS

DIS IS ALL WE GOT CURRENTLY AVAILIBLE

SLAM!

BUT THAT'S JUST A DISPOSABLE* WITH--

* LIKE A DISPOSABLE CAMERA, CAN'T BE RELOADED OR UNLOADED. COMES W/10 ROUNDS

YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?!

N-NO

BUT COULD I HAVE SOME AMMUNITION FOR THE LONG GUN?

SO NOW YOU WANT AMMO, DO'YA?

HERE!

TINK

TWO ROUNDS?

YEAH! AN' TRY NOT TO USE'M, WE'RE RUNNIN' SHORT

OKAY

AND DON'T DAMAGE THE GUNS, OR IT'LL BE OUTTA YOUR PAYCHECK!

TWO BULLETS?!?

I CAN'T ASK FOR MORE!

I'M NOT EVEN SUPPOSED TO BE DOING THIS...

BEEP BEEP

HEY SARGE, THIS IS RACSO DOWN IN WEAPONS

YOU KNOW THAT SISSY COP YOU BEEN--

SUBWAY

DO YOU THINK THEY'RE STILL ALIVE?

I THINK SO

THAT'S WHY I'M NOT TAKING ANY CHANCES BY BRINGING SOMEONE ELSE WITH US

I KNOW HE *WILL* KILL THEM IF I DO

MEANWHILE, FORCED TO USE A SLOWER MEANS OF TRANSPORT THAN HARPY, SALEM AND SAMMY HEAD TOWARDS THE POWER PLANT

SAMMY IN TERRIFIED SILENCE, KNOWING HE'S BEING FERRIED TO HIS EXECUTION, BUT TOO AFRAID OF SALEM TO SAY ANY-THING TO ANYBODY

THERE'S WORSE THINGS THAN SIMPLY BEING KILLED

WE'RE HERE!

HI MOM!

AFTER ITS CONVERSION, OVER 200 YEARS AGO, FROM A COAL-BURNING TO A DREAM-MACHINE POWERED SYSTEM, THE NYC POWER PLANT IS COMPLETELY AUTOMATED AND MOSTLY DESERTED, EXCEPT FOR A SMALL SECURITY FORCE, A RELIC FROM MORE LAWLESS TIMES....

WILL YOU GUYS KEEP IT DOWN?

I'M TRYING TO WATCH THIS--

SURE THING HONEY

I RAISE 5

I'LL MATCH IT, AND YOU STILL OWE ME 20 FROM LAST WEEK

HEY BOYS-- IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT A BREACH IN MAIN HALL!

URPH

HOW MANY?

I CAN'T TELL-- TWO, I THINK, BUT THE READINGS ARE FUNNY

LIKE SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH THE SENSORS

GO CHECK IT OUT, COYOTE

IT'S PROBABLY JUST THE RAIN GIVING FALSE READINGS AGAIN

YOU'RE JUST UPSET BECAUSE I'M WINNING!

ACH, I'D *LIKE* SOMEONE TO BREAK IN! THIS IS THE MOST BORING JOB I'VE EVER HAD!

PHU!

YOU SHOULD HEAR MY DAD TALK ABOUT WHAT IT WAS LIKE BACK BEFORE THE GREAT WAR!

SABOTEURS--

AAAA

WATCH OUT!

CALL FOR BACK-UP, GIRL!

HOLY DUNCTON!

HAH HAH HAH!

HELP ME

GUYS--

RRRARR

NO! WAIT!!

AGGKK!!

All-- I'M GETTING OUT OF THERE!

NO!

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!!

OOHH--

I THINK I'D BETTER MAKE THAT BACK-UP CALL-

NOW!

GOING SOMEWHERE, APRIL?

OH!!

OH MY GOD!!

I CAN IMAGINE YOU DID

I WAS SURPRISED TO FIND YOU STILL WORKING HERE

TOO STUPID TO FIND ANOTHER JOB?

I--

HOW DID YOU GET BACK?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

YOU HATED WORK...

USING HUMAN SAYINGS NOW? HOW QUAINT

JACK SALEM!

I THOUGHT YOU'D--

I'D HEARD--

I JUST WANTED TO PAY A LITTLE SOCIAL CALL ON MY OLD CO-WORKERS

R-RUBENS IS GONE

SANDY GOT MARRIED

TO-TO AN INSECT DOCTOR IF YOU CAN BELIEVE IT

IT DOESN'T SURPRIZE ME

SECURITY

BUT ACTUALLY, THOUGH, IT WAS *YOU* I WAS HOPING TO SEE--

DON'T LOOK, CAROLINA

I'M NOT

I AM RECORDING FELONIES IN PROGRESS FOR FUTURE PROSECUTION

WHAT KEPT YOU?

YOU MISSED ALL THE ACTION

I HARDLY CALL WATCHING YOU EAT "ACTION"

LET'S GET TO THE TURBINES

GIVE ME A MINUTE

YOU'D BETTER HOPE THAT IDIOT COP SHOWS UP ON TIME, AND ALONE

HE WILL

THERE IS STILL A CHANCE YOU CAN TURN STATE'S EVIDENCE AGAINST THE EAGLE

I CAN POSSIBLY WORK OUT A PLEA BARGIN

I HAVE LOGGED THE NUMBER OF FELONIES WITNESSED AND--

THIS THING WILL GET US KILLED BEFORE THE GAY BIRD EVER GETS HERE!

MEANWHILE, BELOW THE CITY STREETS

1

I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS PART OF THE SUBWAY BEFORE

THIS IS WHERE THE 'OFFICIAL" SHUTTLES ARE

THEY'LL GET US TO THE POWER PLANT THE QUICKEST

THE "OFFICIAL SHUTTLES," USED FOR GOVERNMENT, MILITARY AND POLICE SERVICES, BY-PASS NORMAL SUBWAY ROUTES AND CAN REACH ANYWHERE IN THE CITY AT LIGHTING SPEED

BUT NOT WITHOUT A PRICE

WOW

THEY'LL BE ABLE TO TRACE ME BY MY ACCESS CODE

I HOPE I CAN FINISH THIS BEFORE I'M MISSED

HAH! I'VE GOT HIM NOW, BUCKY!!

HE JUST SLIPPED UP GOOD!

HUH? WHAT?

"DETECTIVE" BIRD! I JUST GOT A CALL FROM WEAPONS. SEEMS HE'S CHECKED OUT A COUPLE OF GUNS--

WITHOUT TELLING ME OR THE CHIEF, AND HE'S TAKEN OFF FOR JERSEY VIA THE SHUTTLE

SO?

SO, MR. BADGER-LOPE ***WE*** ARE GOING TO FOLLOW HIM--

WE?

AND CATCH HIM IN THE ACT OF DOING WHATEVER IT IS HE'S DOING, AND REPORT HIM TO THE CHIEF, AND I'LL FINALLY BE RID OF HIM FOR GOOD!

NOW C'MON! TIME'S A-WASTIN'!

THIS WASN'T IN *MY* JOB DESCRIPTION--

SO THIS IS WHERE THE POWER COMES FROM?

I THOUGHT THE DREAM MACHINE SUPPLIED IT

THE MACHINE SUPPLIES THE 'RAW' POWER TO TURN THE TURBINES, WHICH GENERATE ELECTRICITY

HUH

MOST OF THE STUFF AROUND HERE IS FOR CONTROLLING THE POWER FLOWING INTO THE TURBINES

VERY COMPLICATED MACHINERY

I DON'T THINK ANYONE EVEN KNOWS HOW TO USE IT ANYMORE

AWK! WHO CARES?

YOU SAID WE ONLY NEED ONE OF THE PRISONERS ALIVE

WHICH ONE DO YOU WANT TO KILL FIRST?

I WANT THE LITTLE BIRD

I NEVER HAD DESSERT

NO!!

YES! GET RID OF THAT THING!

TAKE IT UP AND DROP IT INTO THE TURBINES LIKE I TOLD YOU!!

I VOLUNTEER TO BE KILLED BY 1ST DEGREE MURDER, A FELONY PUNISHABLE BY UP TO--

YOU CURRENTLY HAVE 9 FELONY COUNTS--

QUICK TO ACT ON SALEM'S SUGGESTION, HARPY SEIZES THE JUSTICE COMPUTER AND FLIES OVER THE TURBINES

— AND YOU HAVE OVER 12 COUNTS

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO TURN STATE'S EVIDENCE AGAINST THE SABLE

HSSSK!

I BELIEVE AN INSANITY PLEA IS FEASIBLE

WRUK

DIE!!

THIS WILL NOT LOOK GOOD ON YOUR RECORD—

JC-05

THERE'S A BRIEF SHRIEK OF METAL ON METAL AS THE HUGE TURBINE REDUCES THE TERMINAL TO SCRAP, THEN RESUMES IT'S NORMAL HUM

HAH HA HAH! THAT WAS GREAT!

I WONDER IF THERE'S ANYTHING LEFT?

AWK!!

COME AND GET ME, YOU DUMB BITCH!

I'LL KILL YOU!!

YARRRKK!!

YOU BASTARD!!

BUT AS THE GREAT WINGS TOUCH CROSSED WIRES--

AAIIIILEEEEEE

ENOUGH VOLTAGE TO LIGHT MANHATTAN SEARS THROUGH HARPY BEFORE SHE FALLS INTO THE TUBINES BELOW

NOW, WHO WANTS TO BE NEXT?

MEANWHILE, THE GAY BIRD AND WAYKE RAIL FIND A DISTURBING SIGHT UPON ENTERING THE POWER PLANT

S-SALEM COULD DO ALL *THIS?*

ALONE?

NO! HE COULDN'T HAVE!

AT LEAST I DON'T THINK SO--

THEY'VE BEEN EATEN, JUST LIKE THAT GUY IN CENTRAL PARK!

LOOK AT THESE FEATHERS!

A GIANT BIRD COULD DO THIS KIND OF DAMAGE

AN ACCOMPLICE?

I NEVER THOUGHT THAT THERE MIGHT BE TWO--

AN EVEN MORE GRISLY SIGHT GREETS THEM INSIDE THE CONTROL ROOM

NO FEATHERS HERE--

OH GOSH!!

THIS MUST BE JACK SALEM'S WORK

A HORRIBLE, PIERCING SHRIEK SUDDENLY FILLS THE MAIN HALL ABOVE THE THROB OF THE TURBINES, THE SCREAM OF A DYING CREATURE, CHILLING THEM TO THE CORE

EEY!

WHAT IS *THAT?!*

AND SHORTLY....

JACK SALEM!

I'M HERE!

THANK GOODNESS!

ALONE. VERY GOOD

VERY STUPID

LET'S TALK THIS OVER--

I'M SURE WE CAN REACH SOME SORT OF COMPROMISE!!

I'LL KEEP HIM TALKING, YOU GO SEE IF YOU CAN GET TO SAMMY AND CAROLINA

YOU GOT IT!

GIVE YOURSELF UP AND I'LL LET THEM GO!!

ARE THEY WITH YOU, ARE THEY OKAY?

TALK, YOU!

WE'RE HERE!

DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, HE'S--

AAAWWO!!

DON'T HURT HIM!!

I'LL DO WHAT YOU WANT!

DAMN RIGHT YOU WILL!!

HERE'S MY GUN AS... AS A SIGN OF GOOD FAITH!

JUST LET THEM GO!

KLAK

ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU KEEP YOUR END OF THE DEAL!

OF COURSE!

HSST! CAROLINA!

WHAT?

NOW YOU COME OUT!

YOUR FIRST!

WAYKE!! THANK THE CREATORS!

YOU HAVE TO WARN HIM! SALEM WON'T--

I KNOW, I KNOW. WE HAVE A PLAN

HOW DOES THAT CAGE OPEN?

IT'S TOO HEAVY FOR US...YOU NEED TWO HANDS

YOU'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE

IF SALEM SEES YOU HE'LL CRUSH YOU LIKE A BUG

DAMN!

IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?

GET HIS GLASSES OFF! HE CAN'T SEE A THING WITHOUT THEM

FAT CHANCE OF THAT!

I SURE HOPE 'DETECTIVE' BIRD KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING...

I'M NOT STUPID ENOUGH TO COME OUT UNARMED--!

BUT I HOPE *YOU* ARE!

AS LONG AS I'VE GOT THE LIFE DETECTOR HE CAN'T LOSE ME IN HERE, AND ONCE I GET MY HANDS ON THAT GUN HE'S FINISHED!

HE'S COMING OUT!

DAMN! I WISH I'D SPENT MORE TIME PRACTICING DOWN AT THE RANGE! I'M NOT TOO GOOD AT THIS...

I'M ONLY GONNA GET ONE CHANCE!

AHHH!!

KA BLAM!

I MISSED! OH NO--!

SHIT! THAT'S IT! WE'RE HISTORY--

SALEM QUICKLY SCRAMBLES BEHIND THE COVER OF THE MACHINERY BEFORE THE GAY BIRD CAN RELOAD

THE WOUND SERIOUS BUT CLEARLY NON-LETHAL

SO HE WANTS TO PLAY ROUGH, HUH?!

I'LL SHOW HIM--

MEANWHILE, THE SARGE AND BUCKY FIND A BIT MORE THAN THEY BARGINED FOR IN THE POWER PLANT

HOLY SHIT

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS--

L-LET'S CALL FOR BACK-UP, HUH?

GUNSHOTS!

CHATTER CHATTER

NO TIME!

PICK UP YOUR FEET!

MOVE IT!

SARGE!! WAIT!!

YOU THINK YOU'RE SO SMART!!

LISTEN TO THEM DIE!

KURREEOWW!!

YARRRK!!

THAT'S DONE IT!

NOW--

WATCH OUT!!

BLAM!

YAWK!!

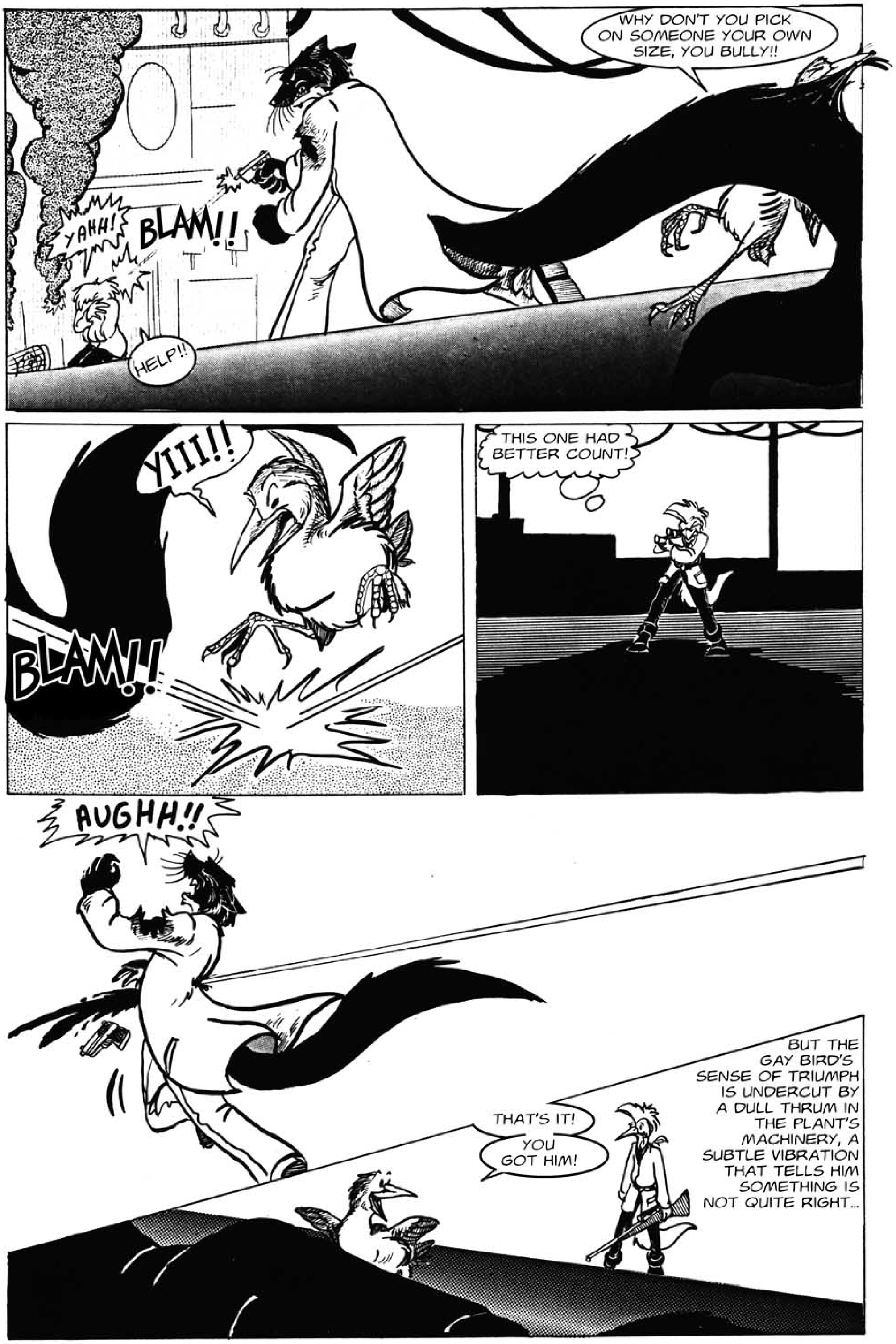
BLAM!!

SHIT!!

BLAM!!
BLAM!!

DAMN
DAMN
DAMN

HOLD ON!!


WHY DON'T YOU PICK ON SOMEONE YOUR OWN SIZE, YOU BULLY!!
YAHH!
BLAM!!
HELP!!
YIII!!
BLAM!!
AUGHH!!
THIS ONE HAD BETTER COUNT!
THAT'S IT!
YOU GOT HIM!
BUT THE GAY BIRD'S SENSE OF TRIUMPH IS UNDERCUT BY A DULL THRUM IN THE PLANT'S MACHINERY, A SUBTLE VIBRATION THAT TELLS HIM SOMETHING IS NOT QUITE RIGHT...

ARE YOU TWO OKAY?
HE BROKE SAMMY'S ARM!
F-FORGET ABOUT IT!
YOU'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
WHY?
THAT SOUND!
WHEN JACK WAS IN THE CONTROL ROOM, I THINK HE THREW SOME OF THE CIRCUIT BREAKERS!
ALL THIS SMOKE?
SO?
THEY'RE WHAT CONTROL THE 'FEED' OF POWER COMING IN FROM THE DREAM MACHINE
THE MACHINERY CAN'T HANDLE ALL THAT UNDILUTED POWER WITHOUT THEM
SO WHAT?
SO WHAT IS THAT I THINK THE PLANT IS GOING TO BLOW UP!!
EEK!
OOOH SHIT!!
IN ANSWER THE PLANT SHUDDERS AND GROANS, SHAKING TO IT'S VERY FOUNDATIONS
RRRUUUUMMMM
OKAY! I BELIEVE YOU!!
HOW DO I GET THIS CHAIN OFF?
NEVER MIND ABOUT ME, YOU GUYS GET OUT OF HERE!
WHAT??

I CAN'T RUN WITH MY ARM LIKE THIS! I'D ONLY SLOW YOU DOWN!

THIS PLACE COULD GO UP ANY SECOND!

I CAN'T LEAVE YOU HERE!!

(YOUR MOM WOULD KILL ME!)

OKAY BUSTER, I GOT YOU NOW!!

SARGE!!

PANT PANT

YOU'VE GOT A *LOT* OF EXPLAINING TO DO, AND YOU'LL DO IT TO THE CHIEF, AND DON'T THINK YOU CAN TALK YOUR WAY OUT OF THIS ONE, EITHER! I'LL HANG YOU OUT TO DRY, I'LL--

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS

SARGE?

SARGE!!

FOR ONCE I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU!

IF YEW DON'T MIND--

WHA-?!

KER-CHOW!

WHY YOU--!!

GIVE ME THAT BACK!!

THERE'S NO TIME TO TALK!
WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
YOU CARRY SAMMY, HE CAN'T RUN
HUH?
WHY?
SARGE--
OW!
BE CAREFUL!
BKRRR

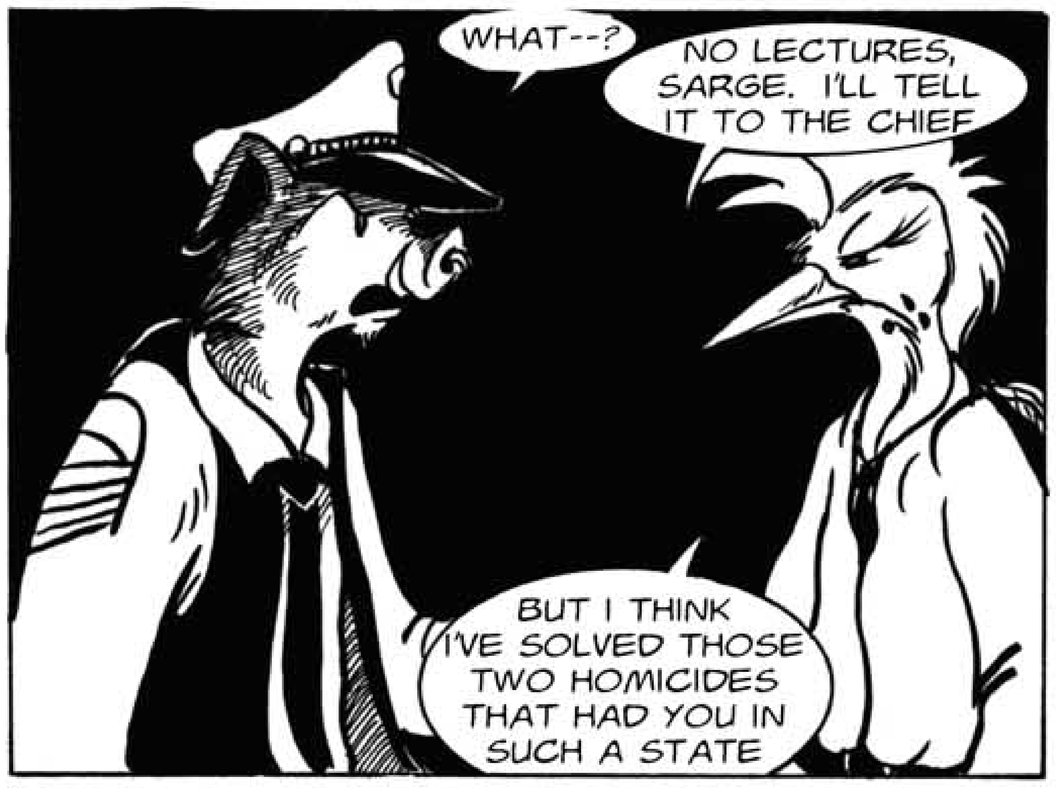
THE BLAST SHATTERS WINDOWS FOR MILES

IT IS FELT OVER 100 MILES AWAY

GROBOUM!

AND FOR THE FIRST TIME IN LIVING MEMORY ALL OF NEW YORK CITY IS BLACKED OUT

PANT
PANT GASP
HOO BOY


WHAT--?
NO LECTURES, SARGE. I'LL TELL IT TO THE CHIEF
BUT I THINK I'VE SOLVED THOSE TWO HOMICIDES THAT HAD YOU IN SUCH A STATE

SNIFF
WHAT'S WRONG?

THE POOR JUSTICE COMPUTER!
IF IT HADN'T OFFERED TO GO FIRST, I THINK JACK WOULD'VE KILLED ME INSTEAD
NO! DON'T SAY THAT!

JUSTICE COMPUTER??
YOU MEAN JACK STOLE THE JUSTICE COMPUTER?!
HE SURE DID!
THAT THING WAS ALMOST AS MUCH TROUBLE AS HARPY

WHO?
I'LL TELL YOU LATER
GET ME TO A HOSPITAL, HUH? MY ARM'S KILLING ME
WHEW
C'MON, WE'LL TAKE THE SHUTTLE
AND CALL YER MOM BEFORE SHE CALLS THE CHIEF AGAIN AND TALKS HIM TO DEATH
THAT'S MY MOM!
THE END